Dear Mr

Further to your request for information dated 25 November 2016 the information requested is below/attached

**How many cycles of IVF provision does your Clinical Commissioning Group provide?**

Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups (which includes NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group) fund up to two full cycles of IVF for eligible patients. This is in accordance with the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups schedule of policy statements for assisted reproductive technologies (ART)

The following extract, which confirms the number of IVF cycles available for eligible patients, is from the current version (March 2016):

> Eligible couples are funded for up to two full cycles of IVF with or without ICSI rather than three – as recommended by NICE Clinical Guideline 156 – because Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups have concluded that extending provision of IVF/ICSI to three full cycles for eligible couples is currently unaffordable in the context of local priorities.

- Has this changed in the last four financial years, if so, from what to what?

This statement remains unchanged from the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Groups’ schedule of policy statements for assisted reproductive technologies (ART) March 2015 and March 2014.
Clinical Commissioning Groups became responsible for commissioning the majority of assisted conception services in April 2013 and the Kent & Medway Referral and Treatment Criteria of September 2013, also confirms that eligible patients would be funded for up to two cycles as follows:

For two fresh cycles of IVF or ICSI if no previous cycles have been funded by the NHS, or if they have already received one non-NHS funded fresh cycle;

For one fresh cycle of IVF or ICSI if the couple has already received one NHS funded fresh cycle or two non-NHS funded fresh cycles.

Details of criteria prior to CCG adoption would be available from NHS England’s Legacy Team.

• Does your CCG also restrict IVF for other reasons? (eg To couples where one of the people in the relationship already has a child.)

IVF provision is subject to access criteria, which is detailed in Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning eligibility criteria for ART policies. This is attached for ease of reference.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the service that you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision you should write to Complaints. NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group 2nd Floor Gravesham Civic Centre Gravesend Kent DA12 1AU or email at dqscrg.complaints@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 54 57 45
www.ico.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.